



**September 4, 2002**

**To: Members, Water Use Efficiency Subcommittee**  
**From: Scott McCreary and Bennett Brooks, CONCUR**  
**Re: Summary: August 8, 2002, Water Use Efficiency Subcommittee Meeting**  
**Cc: Tom Gohring, Water Use Efficiency Program Manager**

---

Below is a brief discussion summary of the Water Use Efficiency Subcommittee meeting held August 8, 2002, in San Diego. This memorandum is divided into five sections: (1) Background; (2) Participation; (3) Meeting Materials; (4) Discussion Summary; and, (5) Next Steps.

## **I. BACKGROUND**

The third meeting of the WUE Subcommittee was held August 8, 2002. The primary purpose of the meeting was to continue and conclude discussions related to staff proposals: one focused on agricultural WUE milestones; the second, on an urban water conservation certification framework.

## **II. PARTICIPATION**

The following subcommittee members or designated alternates participated in the meeting, either in person or via teleconference: Co-chairs David Guy and Frances Spivy-Weber, Roberta Borgonovo, Cheryl Munoz (for Michael Carlin), Michael Conrad, Mary Ann Dickinson, Chris Dundon, Conner Everts, Lloyd Fryer, Richard Harris, Bill Jacoby, Joe Lima, William Miller, Ed Osann, Stephen Ottemoeller, Michael Stanley-Jones, Mike Hollis (for Ed Thornhill) and Mike Wade. Ex-officio participants included Luana Kiger with DWR, Lucille Billingsley and Meena Westford with USBR and Matt Reeve with CDFA (for Steve Shaffer).

Also in attendance were the following staff and facilitation support members: WUE Program Manager Tom Gohring, CALFED consultant David Mitchell, and Scott McCreary and Bennett Brooks, with CONCUR.

Finally, about five members of the public attended the meeting.

### **III. MEETING MATERIALS**

The following meeting materials were developed and distributed to support the WUE Subcommittee's deliberations:

*In advance:*

- Agenda/Discussion Notes
- Memorandum: Updated Staff Proposal for Ag WUE Milestones
- Memorandum: Updated Staff Proposal for Urban Water Conservation Certification
- Key Outcomes Memorandum for June 24, 2002, Subcommittee Meeting

*As handouts:*

- Updated WUE Subcommittee Roster
- WUE Program and Related Updates
- CALFED Water Use Efficiency Financial Summary
- Water Use Efficiency Science Application Committee Work Plan
- Excerpts: Water Use Efficiency Program Assessment and Work Plan – Year 3

Materials will, as appropriate, be updated and posted on the CALFED web page.

### **IV. DISCUSSION SUMMARY**

#### ***Welcome, Introductions and Updates***

The meeting – the third of the WUE Subcommittee – began with a brief review of the agenda and self-introductions. Meeting participants included two new Subcommittee members: Michael Conrad with Golden State Irrigation Services, Inc. and Michael Stanley-Jones with the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition.

#### ***Review and Discussion of WUE Funding Status***

T. Gohring provided an overview of the WUE Program Element's financial status, distributing a series of spreadsheets that emphasized WUE funding commitments, projections and allocations. His overview emphasized several key points.

- Agriculture and urban grant funding is significantly below ROD-stipulated levels. Only funding for recycling is consistent with levels stepped out in the ROD.
- Funding gaps, particularly in the early years, will have a profound impact on the WUE Program Element's ability to generate benefits and project future savings.
- Allocations for science and monitoring activities are not sufficient to track and evaluate the numerous technical and scientific assumptions underpinning many of the WUE Program's activities.

The funding overview triggered an extensive discussion related to program finances, with Subcommittee members expressing serious concerns that funding shortfalls will: (1) limit CALFED's ability to implement widespread WUE activities; (2) minimize the value of many of the benchmarks the program has sought to create; and, (3) undermine CALFED's big-picture discussions related to storage and conveyance.

Subcommittee members suggested several specific strategies for moving forward. These included:

- Drafting a letter to Senators Feinstein and Boxer from interested Subcommittee members emphasizing the potential benefits of full funding for WUE and highlighting the potential drawbacks – to WUE and to the entire CALFED Program – if WUE funding is not substantially increased.
- Drafting a letter to CALFED implementation partners from Subcommittee co-chairs asking that they seek to identify opportunities to better fund the WUE Element's science and monitoring needs – either through re-allocating existing money or finding new sources.
- Convening a Staff Work Group to look more closely at WUE finance-related issues and develop draft policy principles for consideration by and discussion with the full WUE Subcommittee and implementing agencies.
- Convening a follow-on WUE Subcommittee meeting in early September to foster additional deliberations on this topic and develop a recommendation for consideration by the BD-PAC at its September 19 meeting.

Subcommittee members also asked that the WUE funding spreadsheets be revised to: (1) define and better capture the extent and types of local share; (2) articulate the difference between federal, state and ROD years; and, (3) highlight the primary ramifications of the current and projected funding picture.

T. Gohring emphasized that public meeting laws dictate that advisory letters to officials such as Senators Feinstein and Boxer can be undertaken by individual WUE Subcommittee members, but can not be presented as formal WUE Subcommittee actions unless and until they are discussed at the BD-PAC.

***Focus Topic: Ag WUE Milestones/Urban Conservation Certification Framework***

The primary focus of the meeting – and the bulk of the discussions – centered on the Subcommittee's ongoing review of two staff proposals: one related to agricultural WUE milestones, the second related to an urban conservation certification framework. Below is a synopsis of the discussion and actions taken.

## Agricultural WUE Milestones

The WUE Subcommittee continued discussions related to the revised Staff Proposal on Ag WUE Milestones. The deliberations focused on the following topics:

- **Development of quantifiable objectives.** Participants emphasized the need for CALFED agencies to continue making consistent and meaningful progress in articulating, confirming and revising WUE-specific milestones (referred to as Quantifiable Objectives in the proposal). WUE staff agreed to incorporate such language into the proposal.
- **Science and monitoring needs.** Several Subcommittee members stressed the importance of putting in place an effective science effort capable of providing timely and comprehensive monitoring, assessments and revisions to the initiative's technical underpinnings. Staff agreed that such an effort is essential, but said it believes the proposal already effectively emphasizes the importance of sound science. Staff recommended working with the Subcommittee on an ongoing basis to ensure such efforts are appropriately funded and implemented.
- **Ag/urban comparative analysis.** Several Subcommittee members suggested that staff develop a comparative analysis of the proposed agricultural milestones and urban certification approaches. Staff agreed that such an analysis is important, but recommended that it be handled as an ongoing task – and not included as part of the Ag WUE milestones approach.

Based on the discussions, staff analysis and agreed-upon revisions, Subcommittee participants unanimously endorsed the revised Staff Proposal on Ag WUE Milestones and recommended that the BDPAC advise CALFED agencies to adopt the proposal and implement the work described therein.

## Urban Conservation Certification Framework

The WUE Subcommittee continued its discussions related to the revised Staff Proposal on an Urban Conservation Certification Framework. Like the discussion on Ag WUE Milestones, the deliberations centered on a handful of topics:

- **Wholesaler participation requirements.** Several Subcommittee members recommended revising the structure of wholesaler participation requirements to make it similar to the retailer requirements (i.e., incorporating a reporting requirement for the smaller entities and a reporting and certification requirement for the larger entities). T. Gohring agreed to include this revision.
- **BMP 10 revisions.** A number of Subcommittee members raised concerns regarding wholesaler BMP-specific requirements. CALFED staff suggested adding new language emphasizing the need to avoid burdensome overlap and redundancies between and among water suppliers. Staff also noted that these issues are expected to be addressed as part of the CUWCC's ongoing BMP 10 revisions.

- **Adaptive management/sound science.** Several participants emphasized the importance of articulating a process for acknowledging and refining critical data uncertainties. T. Gohring recommended including new language into, among other places, the existing adaptive management component of the framework.
- **Incentive/disincentives.** Participants considered options for handling the request from California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) to add, as an additional incentive, a linkage to conservation elements of permitting processes. Subcommittee members agreed that the CUWA proposal, like other stakeholder comments, should be kept distinct from the Staff Proposal, but forwarded to the BD-PAC as correspondence.

Based on the discussions, staff analysis and agreed-upon revisions, Subcommittee participants unanimously endorsed the revised Staff Proposal on an Urban Conservation Certification Framework, emphasizing that enactment of legislation and subsequent implementation be contingent on BD-PAC and Policy Group resolution of the critical issues related to program balance.

### ***WUE Program and Related Updates***

T. Gohring distributed and briefly reviewed a one-page handout describing WUE Program-related updates. Other updates included: (1) distribution and brief review of the Science Application Committee Work Plan; and, (2) legislative updates by Bill Jacoby.

## **V. NEXT STEPS**

Based on the discussions, participants agreed to a series of next steps intended to facilitate the WUE Subcommittee's deliberations. Specific next steps are outlined below.

### ***Full Subcommittee Meeting Schedule:***

Participants agreed to hold the next WUE Subcommittee meeting in mid-September. The meeting timing – Wednesday, September 11, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Sacramento – is intended to ensure the Subcommittee's follow-on deliberations related to WUE funding status and science/monitoring needs can be considered at the Bay-Delta PAC's September 19 meeting.

Subcommittee members also tentatively set October 28 as a WUE Subcommittee meeting date, with the deliberations expected to include a focused discussion on desalination. The exact date and time is to be confirmed at a later date via e-mail.

### ***Staff Work Group***

The WUE Subcommittee agreed to establish a Staff Work Group on WUE Funding Status to take an in-depth look at WUE funding and allocations and develop a set of draft policy principles for consideration by the full Subcommittee at its September 11 meeting and by the BD-PAC at its September 19 meeting. The following Subcommittee members agreed to participate in the Drafting Team: David Guy, Fran Spivy-Weber,

Bill Jacoby, Bill Miller, Cheryl Munoz, Mary Ann Dickinson, Richard Harris, Meena Westford, Roberta Borgonovo and Lucille Billingsley.

### **Other**

Other next steps discussed and agreed to included:

- **Update of Ag Milestones/Urban Certification Proposals.** T. Gohring is to work with D. Guy and F. Spivy-Weber to update the staff proposals to incorporate WUE Subcommittee comments and prepare a transmittal package to the BD-PAC for consideration at its September 19 meeting. The package is to include: (1) a memorandum from D. Guy and F. Spivy-Weber summarizing the Subcommittee's recommendations and discussions; (2) a copy of the revised staff proposals; (3) a summary of the stakeholder comments generated during the public outreach meetings and WUE Subcommittee discussions; and, (4) copies of any written comments submitted by stakeholders.
- **WUE Implementation Plan.** T. Gohring agreed to update the WUE Implementation Plan based on discussions during the August 8 meeting and distribute the document to WUE Subcommittee members' for their review and comment.
- **Stakeholder Letter Regarding WUE Program Element Funding Needs.** D. Guy and F. Spivy-Weber are to draft and distribute to WUE Subcommittee members for their review and concurrence two draft letters: (1) one to Senators Feinstein and Boxer, requesting full funding for WUE activities; and, (2) a second to CALFED implementation partners, requesting that they identify possible strategies for increasing funding for WUE science and monitoring activities. T. Gohring emphasized that public meeting laws dictate that these activities can be undertaken by individual WUE Subcommittee members, but can not be presented as formal WUE Subcommittee recommendations unless and until they are discussed at the BD-PAC.